CONNECTICUT
CONFERENCE OF
MUNICIPALITIES

THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CCM 2012 Testimony

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PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE
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Good Morning.

I am Dan Drew, Mayor of Middletown, and member of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 90% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

CCM *opposes* Senate Bill 249 *"An Act Concerning the Dismissal of Deputy Chiefs of Police"*.

This proposal would mandate that the dismissal of deputy police chiefs be kept internal, within the police department, and under the authority of the Chiefs of Police – and would therefore, **eliminate local Chief Executive Officials' discretion and flexibility to execute such critical administrative decisions.** Municipal CEOs are elected and accountable to the residents of their community. They need managerial prudence to meet the needs of their constituents. SB 249 seeks to abolish that key managerial discretion and would disrupt a foundation of accountability that is inherent among all local public safety officials, including deputy chiefs – and vital to the integrity of local public safety.

Make no mistake, proponents of this issue would be sure to seek additional, mandated "just cause" benefits down the road, similar to previous years' attempts. State lawmakers were wise not to pass such special employment benefits before and should thwart these attempts again, now.

Simply put – it is not prudent statewide public policy to eradicate critical management procedures at the local level for the benefit of a specific class of employees.

CCM urges the committee to **oppose Senate Bill 249**.

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If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Legislative Analyst of CCM via email mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org or (203) 500-7556.